

the Almagest

January 31, 2002

We're watching, are you?

Volume 41, Number 1

SGA proposes raise in LSUS student activities fee

by
Raechal Leone

Students could see a \$45 increase in their student activities fee this fall if the Student Government Association (SGA) Senate at its Jan. 31 meeting approves a proposal introduced last week by President Jeff Strozier.

Strozier introduced the proposal to increase the fee at the SGA's Jan. 17 meeting, the first of the semester.

Strozier urged senators to approve the proposal, which would double the current student activities

fee and directly benefit student organizations such as the SGA, Student Activities Board (SAB), *The Almagest*, Debate Team and the Student Organizations Council (SOC).

The proposal is a response to student complaints that the University lacks college programming such as concerts and special events and that some student organizations have seen deep budget cuts over the last few years, Strozier said.

Representatives and advisers of several student organizations attended the

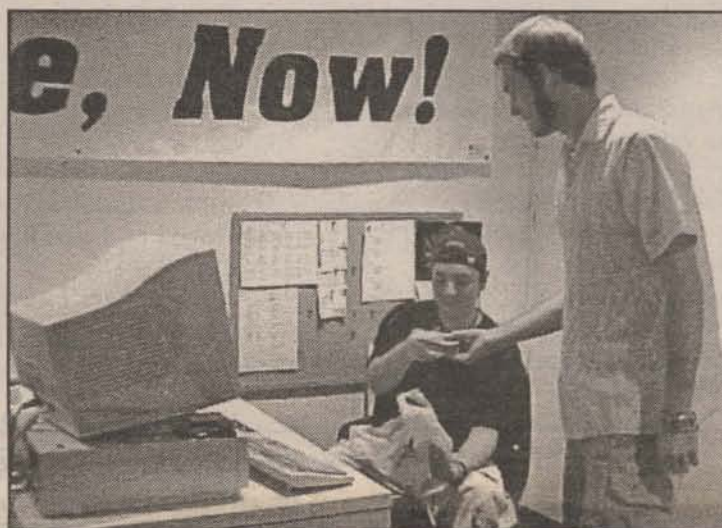


Photo by Dominic Claiborne
SGA President Jeff Strozier and Vice President Brad Bowen in an exchange in the new SGA office. The SGA Senate will vote on a proposal to increase the student activities fee at its Jan. 31 meeting.

Jan. 17 meeting to speak in support of the proposed increase.

Bert Harper, a representative of the SAB, said that most of the

current student activities fee is used to pay for the maintenance and operation of the University Center, rather than SAB programming and student organizations.

"It really should be called the UC fee," Harper said. "We (SAB members) have sold T-shirts and student IDs to make a little money, but not nearly enough."

The portion of the student activities fee that is designated for the UC is currently not enough money to pay for the building, so it is eating into the por-

Continued on pg. 3

Port opens to a flood of hungry students

by
Lisa Branch

For the first time since last spring, LSUS students can grab a bite to eat on campus.

The Port, the new coffee bar and eatery in the University Center, opened on Jan. 14.

The new restaurant offers everything from breakfast, salads, soups, hot and cold sandwiches and dinner baskets to side items including fresh fruit and desserts.

The Port also offers lunch specials everyday.

Freshman pre-pharmacy major Kevin Sims had a



Photo by Dominic Claiborne

Student commune in the new LSUS cafeteria, The Port

breakfast of a sausage biscuit and coffee at The Port last Tuesday morning.

Sims said he considered the prices at The Port to be reasonable, especially

since he was able to get it without leaving campus.

A few tables over, sophomore pre-nursing major Lashanda May ate a bagel with senior biochemistry major Gary Ely, who ate chicken strips. "I got a bagel because anything else would have taken too long," May said.

May and Ely both said that the prices at The Port were better than those at The Manhattan, the restaurant which was previously located in the University Center.

May, who worked at the Manhattan, said she felt the Port needed another cash register and more help.

Food Service Manager Sue Brown said she is planning on hiring more employees. "The business is doing very well, in fact, six times better than the Manhattan," Brown said.

The formal grand opening of The Port will be held Feb. 19. The grand opening will consist of live entertainment, free food and more. Free T-shirts will be given away.

The Port is located on the first floor of the University Center.

It's open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Sue Brown at 797-5181.

Students join Americorps to improve community

by
Heather Hovis

Improving the environment and the community is what Americorps, an organization that provides living expenses and scholarship money to students ages 17 to 24, is all about.

Americorps members work to improve the natural environment through community service projects.

Members are assigned to do activities such as litter control, recycling, tree planting, park clean up, clearing hiking and biking trails, and painting and water quality testing.

Several LSUS students are already members of Americorps, but there are openings for about 16 more members.

Eighteen-year-old Takiyyah Rachal, a freshman at LSUS, is

currently in her second year of working with Americorps. Rachal said she has learned much about her community through her work.

Rachal recently worked on a Christmas tree recycling project. The trees were transported to south Louisiana to be used in the wetland areas to prevent erosion.

Tina Marks, a 19-year-old freshman at LSUS, learned about Americorps through the Career Center. She said that the organization has made her "a more responsible person."

Marks, who joined Americorps last September, is working on a phone book recycling project that will last through February.

Marks and Rachal are both involved in a tree-planting project at the "Growing Out Station" at Walter B. Jacobs Park,

where trees are planted and cared for until they are mature enough to be moved to other locations.

Shreveport Green coordinates the local branch of the national organization, which operates on grant money from the National Service in Washington, D.C.

The local Americorps is the number one youth program in the state and in the top 30 in the nation.

When students commit to work 900 hours for Americorps, they receive a stipend of \$4,923. At the completion of their work, students receive a scholarship of \$2,362.

Students who have less time to commit may work for 450 hours and receive half the stipend and half the scholarship.

Program manager Lee Jeter said his goal is "to give students a vision of

the future for their community, neighborhood and environment."

Jeter said Americorps is currently looking for other students like Marks and Rachal, who are interested in making the world a better place.

For applications and brochures, call the Americorps office at 219-1888 or visit the organization's Web site at <http://www.americorps.org>.

Upon completion of the application, applicants meet with Jeter to discuss their desire to make a difference in the world.

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Calendar of events

Thu Jan 31

10:30 a.m.
Black Students Association Meeting
Pilots Room

Student Government Association Meeting
Webster Room

7 p.m.
Sigma Phi Epsilon Interest Group
Red River Room

Fri Feb 1

6:30 p.m.
Chi Alpha Meeting
DeSoto Room

Sat Feb 2

Sun Feb 3

Super Bowl

!!

Mon Feb 4

Tue Feb 5

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Blood Drive
University Center

10:30 a.m.
Chi Alpha Meeting
Pilots Room

Diverse Music Experience Meeting
Webster Room

Wed Feb 6

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Blood Drive
University Center

3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
National Girls and Women in Sports Day Celebration
U.C. Theater

Thur Feb 7

10:30 a.m.
Black Students Association Meeting
DeSoto Room

Student Government Association Meeting
Webster Room

7 p.m.
Sigma Phi Epsilon Interest Group
Red River Room

Fri Feb 8

6:30 p.m.
Chi Alpha Meeting
DeSoto Room

7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Bagpipe Concert
U.C. Theater

Sat Feb 9

Sun Feb 10

Student Activities hopes fee increase will allow new programs

Continued from pg. 1
tion designated for student organizations, Strozier said.

The proposed fee increase, Strozier said, will not be used for the UC. Instead, the fee money will go into the pot of money divided among student organizations at the budgeting meeting at the beginning of each school year.

"Everybody was having to take cuts" at this year's budgeting meeting, Strozier said. "I was looking at the budgets and said 'that's why there's nothing going on.' We're working to get to the root of the students' problem of having nothing to do (on campus)."

The Debate Team was one organization that faced budget cuts again this year, said adviser Mary Jarzabek. "It affects which programs you get," said Jarzabek, an instructor in the communications department. "With a 10 percent increase in the budget, we could do three more tournaments."

In comparison with the student activities fees at other universities in the state, the LSUS fee is "a pathetic joke," said SGA adviser Dr. Gloria Raines, who also serves as vice chancellor for student affairs. "The electrical

costs and utilities are eating up the budget."

College of Education Senator Ben Thomas suggested that the Senate consider making several, smaller increases, rather than one large increase. "I've seen several business-

The LSU Board of Supervisors, which oversees the entire LSU system, will ultimately make the decision on the fee increase however. Strozier said that whether or not the Chancellor and the student body, which is represented by the

number and quality of SAB programs, according to Shannon Murphy, SAB adviser and director of student activities and the University Center.

"The biggest difference is that SAB will be able to provide programs of excep-

Tempore Ben Thomas' appointment of Michael Collins for parliamentarian and reappointed former Senator Jessica Beech as a Senator-at-Large. Beech, a junior public relations major, resigned from the Senate last fall.

Strozier requested \$60 for refreshments and door prizes for the SGA open house held Jan. 24. The Senate unanimously approved the request.

Raines announced that the number of students who registered during early registration via the telephone and Internet set a record.

Overall student enrollment for the spring semester surpassed last spring's enrollment by about 75 students, Raines said.

The SGA is again raffling off the SGA reserved parking spaces in front of Bronson Hall, the Business and Education Building and the Sciences Building.

Tickets cost \$1. They are available in the SGA Office in Room 221 of the University Center, at the SGA meetings in the Webster Room of the University Center or from SGA senators. All proceeds will be donated to a local non-profit organization. The drawing is scheduled for Feb. 15.

By the Numbers

Student activities fees at area universities when calculated per semester for full-time students:

LSUS
\$45

Louisiana Tech University
\$178.75

Northwestern State University
\$106.25

Source: Shannon Murphy, director of student activities and the University Center

es come into sudden cash and start blowing money," Thomas said. "Three years later, they have nothing to show for it."

Thomas also said, however, that the increase is needed. "There's really no way around it," he said.

If the SGA approves the fee increase, the bill will go to Chancellor Vincent Marsala.

Strozier said he is confident that Marsala will support the increase, because the two have discussed the issue before.

SGA, support the fee increase will weigh heavily on the board's decision.

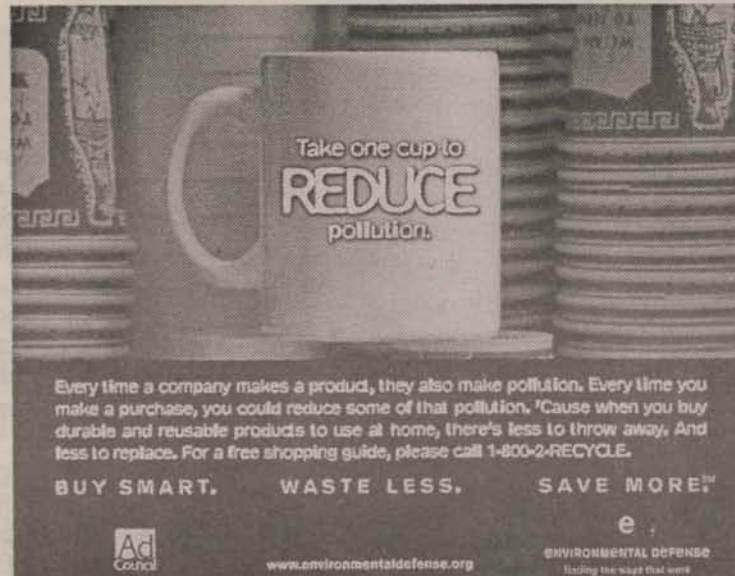
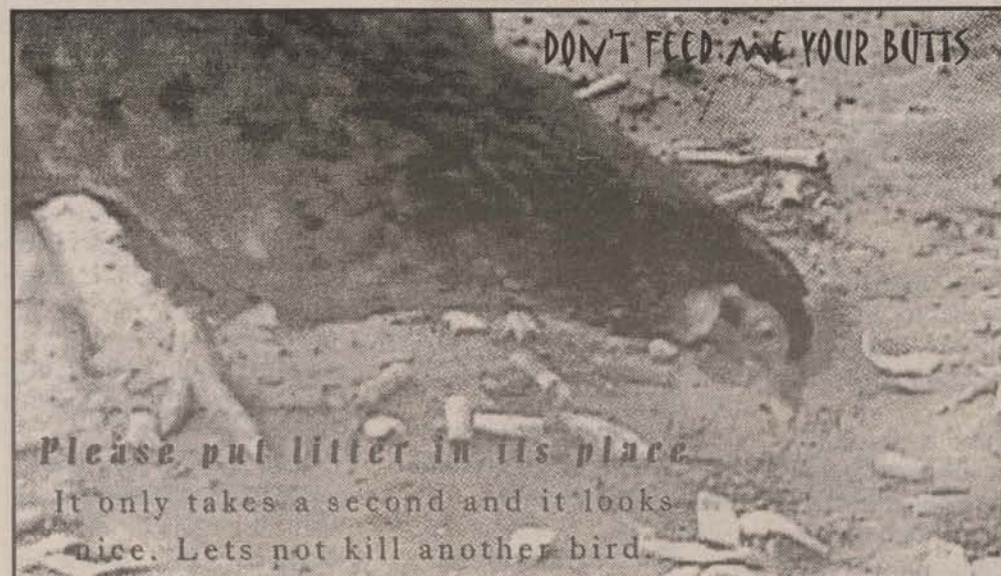
"It's important to realize that the final money decisions are made by the students," Strozier said. "The money trickles down to the students, whether through organization grants from the SOC or programming done by the SAB. We're fortunate to have a system like that. A lot of schools don't."

If the fee increase is approved, students are likely to see an increase in the

tional value," Murphy said. "I'm not saying we'll be able to have a concert every semester, but hopefully one major concert a year with regional performers. We'll be able to have big events that students will be excited about."

The SGA's Jan. 31 meeting will be held in the Webster Room of the University Center. The meeting is open to everyone.

In other business, the Senate unanimously approved President Pro



Bosnian student begins teaching Biology

by
Lana Parshina

Admir Seferovic, a 30-year-old Bosnian student began teaching human anatomy and medical microbiology at LSUS this semester.

The science department hired Seferovic, a senior science major, to teach classes that would have been taught by Dr. Selvestion Jimes, who retired after the fall semester.

Seferovic had to pass a series of interviews before he was approved for the position.

"Dr. Burden initiated conversation with me about teaching," Seferovic said. "She encouraged me to submit my published works, along with all the paperwork to the chair of the biology department about a year ago."

Seferovic's experience includes performing more than 800 surgical procedures during the war in Bosnia and receiving a

4.0 grade point average at both the Medical University of Sarajevo, Bosnia, and at LSUS.

"I began working as a doctor in Bosnia, since we did not have enough medical personnel after the war started," Seferovic said. "I was prepared to do that: first, I had four years of medical training for medical technician and physician assistant. Plus, I had knowledge from medical school. My job also included coordinating international doctors because I spoke several languages."

Before coming to Shreveport in August 2000, Seferovic was an interpreter for the American Missions in Bosnia, which sponsored him to study at LSUS.

LSUS is not the first university where Seferovic has taught. "I was excited to start teaching again," he said. "I taught histology, anatomy and microbiology classes at the Medical University of Sarajevo. The

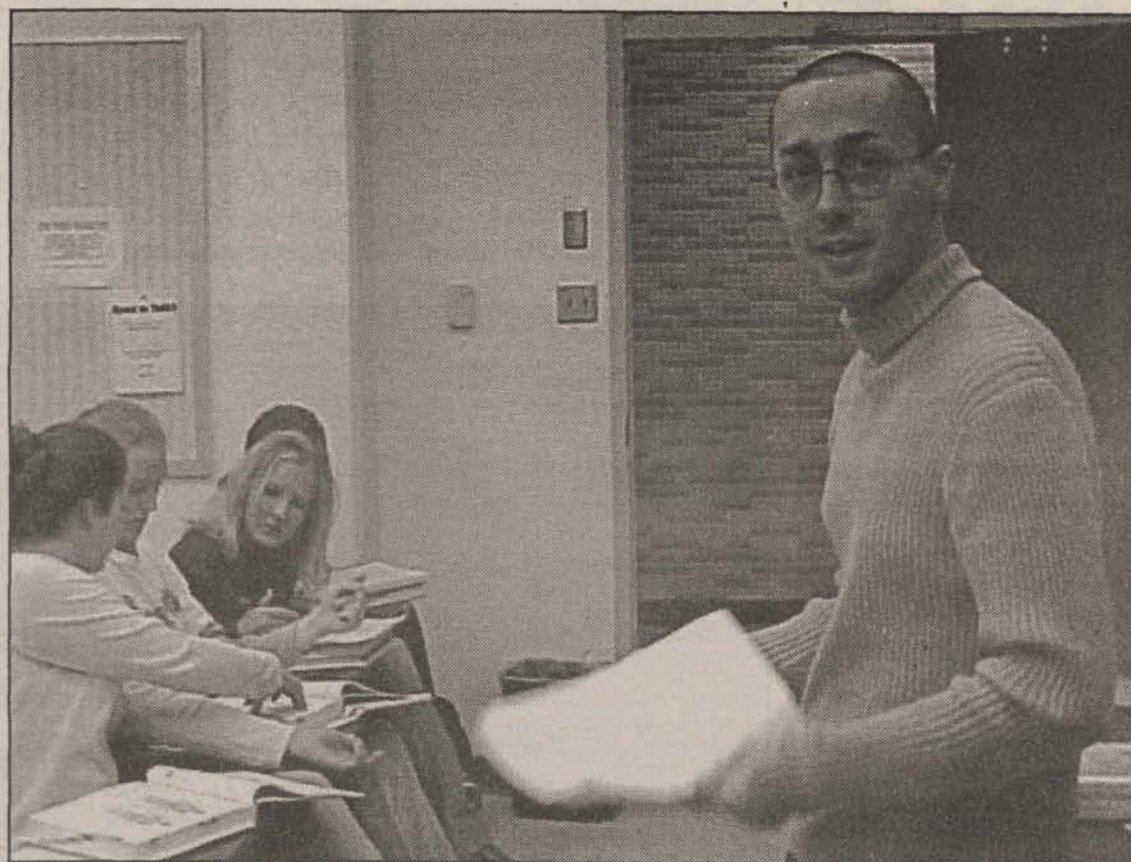


Photo by Lana Parshina

Admir Seferovic, a senior science student, began teaching biology this semester

students in my classes here are dedicated and very smart."

Chair of Biological Sciences Dr. Stephanie Aamodt said she felt Seferovic would be a good addition to the faculty before he was hired.

After Jimes retired, the department had tried unsuccessfully to find an

adjunct faculty member in the Shreveport/Bossier area to replace him.

"About a year ago, Dr. Burden talked to me about Admir," Aamodt said. "I felt he was very interested in teaching and had a strong background."

Speaking about Seferovic as a teacher, Aamodt said, "I have not

heard any comments about his teaching yet, but I was impressed with his way of organizing classes."

Admir's reputation on campus also played a role in his selection as a faculty member. Aamodt said, "The thing with Admir is that I had been hearing praises from the faculty about Admir as a student."

Greeks recruiting as new semester begins

by
Dean Jagot

Spring Greek Recruitment was held on campus Jan. 24-25 for the Phi Mu Fraternity, Zeta Tau Alpha Fraternity, the Sigma Phi Epsilon interest group and the Tau Kappa Epsilon interest group.

Almost 20 students participated in the event, twice the number of students that participated in recruitment last spring.

LSUS has traditionally been considered to be a commuter school, but the University has recently made efforts to attract students to social organizations such as fraternities.

"We have a new group of people with a lot of motivation, and a strong set of values," said Erika Gonzalez, marketing coordinator /graduate assistant.

The number of recruits "seems to double every year," she said.

This year marked the first time that the Tau Kappa Epsilon interest group participated in spring recruitment.

Eleven students currently belong to the organization. Adviser Dr. Brian Hirsch, who is also director of the Career Center, said he believes the new interest group and other social groups will be successful because students are seeking, "leadership, experience and life-long friendships."

Spring Greek Recruitment has ended officially, but students can still join a Greek organization on campus.

For more information, call Erika Gonzalez at 797-5387 or visit http://www.LSUS.edu/osa/greek_life.htm.

Marketing student inducted into business honor society

by
Myra Taylor

Junior marketing major Amber Rollins was among 75 students selected from colleges across the country to attend the national conference of the Beta Gamma Sigma business honor society in Clearwater, Fla.

Rollins is involved with the LSUS chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma, the only business honor society on campus.

Although Rollins has already been invited to become a member, she won't become an official member of the organization until

September.

Rollins said that being invited to be a member of Beta Gamma Sigma was a great honor. She said she came back from the conference with a mission to raise awareness of the organization on campus.

Adjunct professor Rick Parker serves as the faculty adviser for the LSUS chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma. Dr. Charlotte A. Jones, dean of the College of Business is a member of the organization.

Beta Gamma Sigma was founded in 1913 and today has 440,000 members.

There is no required grade point average to be a

member; eligible members are juniors in the top 7 percent of their class, seniors in the top 10 percent and graduate students in the top 20 percent.

Members are inducted by invitation only.

Beta Gamma Sigma is an honor society accredited by Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) international.

The society is also a member of the Association of College Honor Societies (AHCS).

For more information, call Parker at 797-5240 or visit the organization's Web site at <http://www.betagammastigma.org>

Women in sports day to be held at LSUS

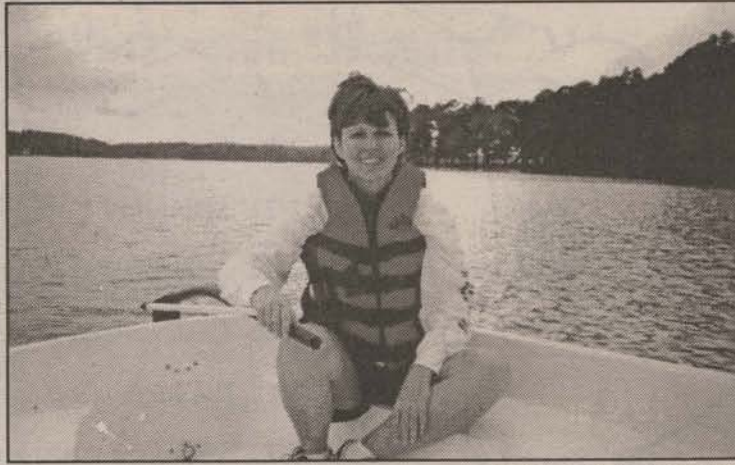
Female athletes from area schools join together

by
Candice Leone

Faculty and students will celebrate National Girls and Women in Sports Day (NGWSD) for the first time at LSUS on Feb. 6.

The event will include an awards ceremony honoring female athletes of all ages who are involved in all types of sports in the University Center theater from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Female athletes from Bossier Parish Community College, Evangel Christian Academy, Centenary College, Caddo Parish Magnet High and Captain Shreve High School, as well as individual athletes and a few LSUS faculty



Photos provided by Cay Evans

Dr. Cay Evans enjoying an opportunity to sail

members are all expected to attend the ceremony.

Any female athlete who submitted her information by the Jan. 28 deadline will be honored for her achieve-

ments.

Dr. Cay Evans and Ron Byrd of the kinesiology and health sciences department are heading up the event.

"Any girl or woman athlete, any age can be recognized...(the event is) open to all females involved in sports in this area," Evans said.

Although this is the first year the event will be celebrated locally, National Girls and Women in Sports Day has been held nationally since 1987.

The event honors Olympic volleyball player Flo Hyman, who was widely recognized for her efforts to ensure equality in sports.

Hyman died of a heart attack while competing in a volleyball tournament in 1986.

Since then, each year in Washington, D.C., the

Women's Sports Foundation presents the Flow Hyman Memorial Award to a female athlete they feel has shown outstanding qualities and leadership in women's athletics.

Past winners include Lisa Leslie, Monica Seles and Nadia Comaneci.

Although no specific awards will be given locally, female athletes from the area will be recognized during the ceremony, which is open to the public.

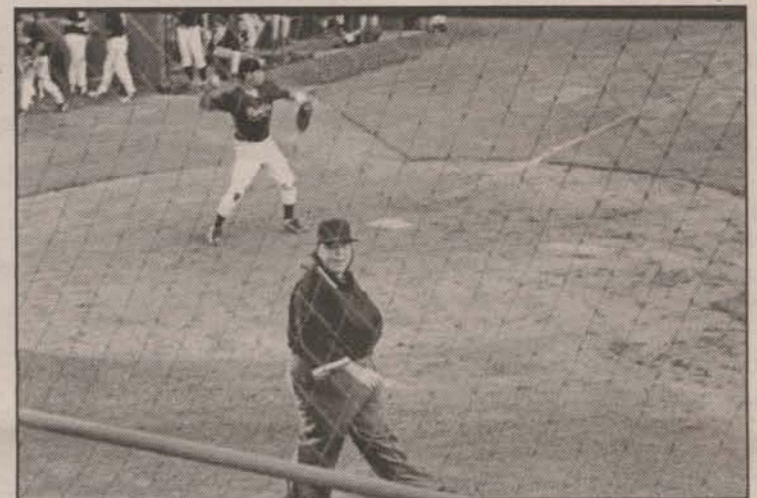
Missy Setters, director

locally was aware of it, Evans said. However, Evans said she expects it to be widespread by next year and to become an annual event. Local businesses and organizations such as Shreveport Parks and Recreation (SPAR), the Councils on Aging and the Special Olympics have agreed to support this year's local event, she said.

"Locally, no one (else) is doing anything (because) no one was aware of it," Evans said. "But they are very excited now, and we



Dr. Donna Austin participating in a 10K race



Dr. Beverly Burden umpires a game of Men's Baseball

of media relations of the Independence Bowl and a former swimmer and golfer, will serve as the keynote speaker. Other guests are also scheduled to speak.

This is first time NGWSD has been celebrated in the area, since no one

are already making plans for next year."

Evans said she also plans to teach an Internet course entitled "Women in Sports" next spring.

For more information on NGWSD, contact Evans at 797-5037.



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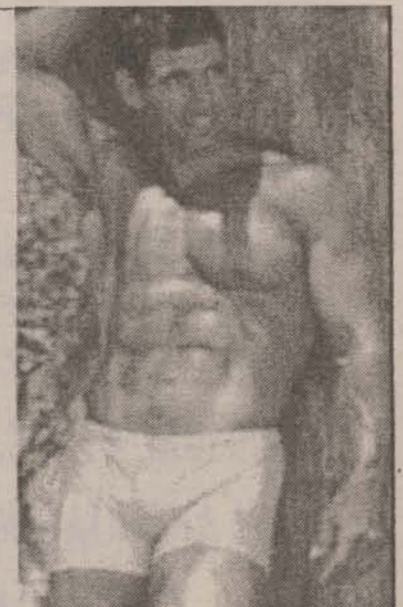
***TANNING**

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***CUTS**

***HI-LIGHTS**

***PERMS**



ASK HOW TO GET FREE TANNING

Baseball team initiates new season

by
Lauren Miller

The LSUS Pilots baseball team begins a new season on Feb. 2 when they play a 4 p.m. home game against Texas College.

Head coach Rocke Musgraves said he holds high expectations for the team, which includes a core group of returning players.

The key to this year's team, however, is in the arms of the young pitching staff, Musgraves said.

Twelve of the team's 29 players are new to the LSUS baseball program, as a result Musgraves' recruiting.

The coach attends numerous games and clinics and spends hours networking with other coaches to scout prospective athletes.

This season's schedule includes games against Nicholls State University and Northwestern State University.

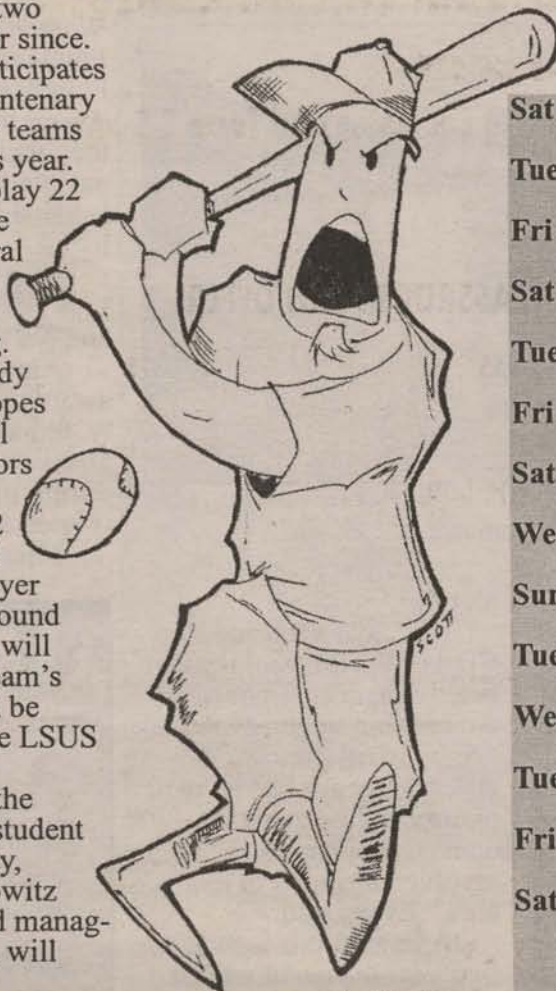
The players are most looking forward to the game against Loyola University,

however. Loyola knocked the Pilots out of the playoffs last season, and the two have been rivals ever since. The team usually anticipates the game against Centenary College, but the two teams will not meet up this year.

The Pilots will play 22 games on their home turf, including several evening games since the field now has stadium lighting. Assistant Coach Andy Heckman said he hopes these later times will attract more spectators to the games.

The Pilots' 2002 baseball schedule, a team roster with player biographies, background and last year's stats will soon be up on the team's Web site, which can be accessed through the LSUS Web site.

Information on the coaches, including student coach Rob Carroway, trainers Rich Deckowitz and Chad Moon and manager Robert Hickman, will also be posted.



Art by Michael Scott

Pilots Spring '02 Home Games

Sat	2/2	Texas College	4:00
Tue	2/5	Houston Baptist University	3:00
Fri	2/22	Springhill College	6:30
Sat	2/23	Springhill College	1:00
Tue	2/26	Le Tourneau University	6:30
Fri	3/1	Talladega College	6:30
Sat	3/2	Talladega College	1:00
Wed	3/6	Northwestern University	6:30
Sun	3/10	Blackburn College	6:30
Tue	3/12	U. Arkansas - Monticello	4:00
Wed	3/13	Lee University	1:00
Tue	3/19	Northwood University	3:00
Fri	3/22	Loyola University	6:30
Sat	3/23	Loyola University	1:00

What's going on...

SHREK



IS COMING TO THE
UC THEATER
FEBRUARY 21@ 7PM
F R E E !

Grand Opening!

The PORT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2002 @10:30 AM

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 12:00 PM & 8:30 PM

BE PRESENT FOR GIVEAWAYS!

SAB brings the

KREWE OF SWEETHEARTS

to LSUS!

Come enjoy King Cake and
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Thursday, February 7 at 10:25am



Intramurals

5v5 Basketball

entries due Jan. 30

play begins Feb. 5

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For information contact Dr. Pederson @ wpederso@pilot.lsus.edu or (318) 797-5138

LSUS Website may have been misleading about fees

by
Allison Burns

Students who paid their tuition online via student web services this semester might have noticed that the screen showed the cost of additional classes to be almost double what the price should have been. The problem was a "display error," according to Shelby Keith, director of computing services.

"The module that does the recalculation of additional courses wasn't clearing out the original amounts," Keith said. "We fixed the problem the day students started calling."

Because the miscalculation was only a display error, Keith said that students

who paid online were not actually overcharged.

The possibility of billing mistakes is one of the reasons students like Davis Romero, a freshman liberal arts major, has doubts about using a credit card online to pay tuition.

"I don't pay my tuition online, and I would never put my credit card number out onto the Internet," Romero said. "You just never know who may get your information."

Still, some have no qualms placing their credit card digits on the World Wide Web.

"I really like shopping online," said Misty Chamberlin, a sophomore general studies major. "I didn't pay my tuition online, but I

don't think I would have any problems with it."

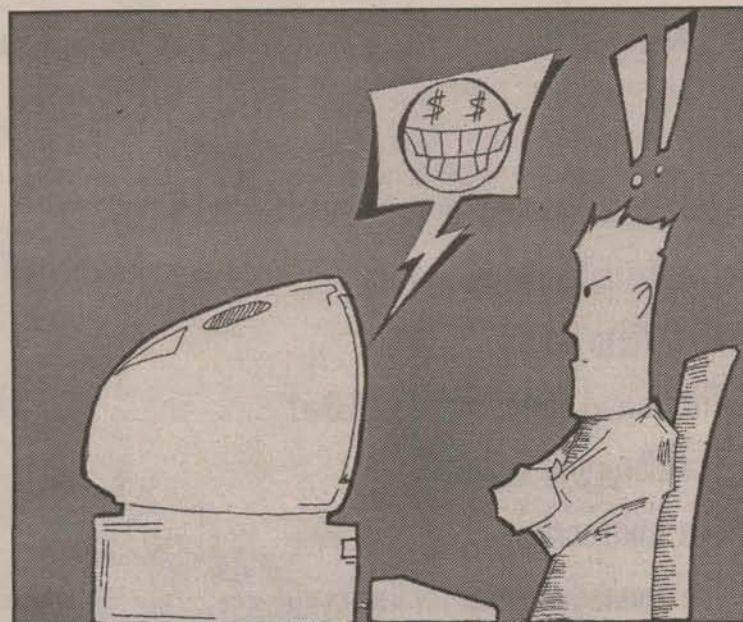
Chamberlin, who said she has "no problem"

last November, according to Forrester Research Online Retail Index, <http://www.forrester.com>.

according to the Iowa State University Web site, <http://www.extension.iastate.edu>.

According to the site, shoppers should always use secure browsers and never put personal information over the internet that they want to keep private. Shoppers should also shop through companies with which they are familiar. Lastly, shoppers should keep in mind the Fair Credit Billing Act (FCBA).

The FCBA covers disagreements applied to unauthorized charges, charges with incorrect amounts and charges on goods that were not "delivered as agreed." For more information on the FCBA, visit <http://www.ftc.gov>.



Art by Michael Scott

putting her credit card number online, is not alone.

Online shoppers spent virtually five billion dollars

There are, however, ways the weary can shop more safely on the Internet,

"SIMPLY SPECTACULAR!"
-Entertainment Weekly

"HILARIOUS & OUTRAGEOUS!"
-Associated Press

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

February 14, 15, and 16 at 7:00pm.

LSUS Theater

Tickets may be purchased by calling 797-5302.

Students: \$4 LSUS Faculty/Staff: \$6 General Admission: \$9

Tickets are also available in the LSUS bookstore

"The Vagina Monologues" is sharp, funny, sleek... When it's done, you won't be able to say it enough – vagina, vagina, vagina.

Bret Fetzer, *Seattle Weekly*, April 23, 1998.

Proceeds will benefit local organizations that are working to stop violence against women.

For more information, go to www.vday.org or e-mail VdayShreveportBossier@yahoo.com.

LSUS campus police blotter**Dec. 3**

9:00 p.m.

Three females who work in the University Writing Center reported to the English Department that a man was harassing them. The suspect was asked to speak with Campus Police.

Dec. 6

5:20 a.m.

University Police woke a University Court Apartments (UCA) resident to ask him to turn off his music after a fellow resident complained.

2:15 p.m.

A mountain bike was reported stolen from the UCA. It had been locked and chained, but to no avail.

Dec. 7

10:55 am

A student reportedly became upset at the amount of money he received from selling his books to the LSUS Bookstore. Employees reported that the student said, "It's OK, you are all going to die!" When contacted by police, he denied making the statement and said he would stay away from the bookstore.

Dec. 10

12:30 am

Campus police observed Shreveport police entering the UCA. A young woman had reported being battered by her boyfriend. She said she had been braiding his hair and attempting to discuss child support issues with him when he began calling her names. After she stopped braiding his hair, he reportedly became violent and damaged her phone when she tried to call campus police. She used her cell phone to call Shreveport Police.

Dec. 12

11:45 pm

A female resident of the UCA reported that another resident of the UCA had stolen her ID card. Upon investigation, police found that the suspect had allegedly put washing detergent in one of the woman's roommate's milk and that someone had put an unknown substance in the cranberry juice.

Dec. 19

2:15 am

A UCA resident said her boyfriend had become enraged and broken out the driver's side window of her car. Apparently he had come to the apartments to talk, and he admitted he had become frustrated and agreed to pay damages.

Dec. 21

9:30 am

A woman reported that some CDs were missing from her apartment after she returned from a trip out of town. Her roommate, who was out of town at the time of the report, had not reported anything wrong.

Jan. 1, 2002

3:30 am

A woman at the UCA reported that she and her boyfriend had been at her apartment when he became angry and began knocking holes in the walls of her apartment. He then reportedly grabbed her and struck her on the mouth, causing several scratches and a bloody lip. She said he mentioned that he had "some people" who would kill her for him. She left and went to Willis- Knighton for treatment, reporting that she could not remember what made him mad. Police attempted to locate him but he had already left the apartments.

Jan. 4

4:40 pm

A man reported that his credit card number had been stolen. He believed that his roommate had taken the number from a credit card statement after finding erroneous charges to an Internet pornography site. The credit card was cancelled.

Jan. 10

1:25 am

Campus police were called to escort an unwanted guest from UCA, but the person had already left by the time police arrived.

Jan. 11

6:40 pm

Officers responded to a call from the Administration Building call box when a woman found that someone has broken into her car. The car's steering column had been broken and wires had been pulled out.

Jan. 27

12:00 am

Officers told a UCA resident that his visitors had to leave after police witnessed them being loud and unruly on the porch.

The Almagest

("al-meh-jest". n): Arabic: "The Majestic"
any of several medieval treatises on a branch of knowledge
(as the 9th century Arabic translation of Ptolemy's
Greek work on astronomy)
- Webster's Third New International Dictionary

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Have a story?

Call the *Almagest* at 797-5328 Email us at
almagest@pilot.lsus.edu

The Almagest is a member of the Southeastern Journalism
Conference, American College Press Association, and the
Columbia Scholastic Press Association

The Almagest Letters Policy

The Almagest requests your reactions through Letters to the
Editor. Letters should be typed and double spaced. Please include
your class and major field of study. Letters should be submitted to
The Almagest office, BH 344, by 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding
the Thursday publication date. Obscene, libelous and anonymous
letters may not be printed. *The Almagest* reserves the right to edit
letters.

Do you have any concerns, complaints, conundrums?

Write us a letter!

It's easy and fun
email us at almagest@pilot.lsus.edu
or stop by Bronson Hall 344

From the editor

■ The student activities fee must be increased to provide for the needs of LSUS stu- dents and improve the quality of the school

Students at LSUS are not getting what
we pay for right now.

Every semester you pay \$45 that is
collectively known as the "Student Activ-
ities Fee."

In fact, this is two separate fees: the
student activities fee and the University
Center fee. However, because the fee has
not been increased in 28 years, little of
the money actually goes to Student Activ-
ities.

What's left after paying for the
University Center building, custodians,
utilities and other costs is then sent to a
committee made up of several
organizations which meets every year to
agree how much of a budget cut we'll
each take.

The Almagest, which you are reading
right now, is paid for by this fee along
with Student Activities, the Student Orga-
nization Council, Student Government,
the literary magazine *Spectra* and the De-
bate Team.

Every student, no matter how apathet-
ic and disaffected, benefits from the fee.
Whether you read, visit the UC
occasionally or join in the events SAB
plans, you use your student activities fee
if you attend this university.

However, no student benefits as much
as he or she should. Inflation and the
costs of the UC put a choke hold on what-
ever spending organizations plan.

People complain that Student Activi-
ties doesn't plan events that appeal to
them, but Student Activities can only
work with what they have and every year
this is less.

As a university that must expand to

meet the needs of a diverse and growing
student body, the necessity of a fee
increase is obvious.

After all, we are behind the other uni-
versities in the state and if students from
area high schools can't find what they're
looking for here, they'll go elsewhere.

This is why the SGA, led by President
Jeff Strozier and Vice President Brad
Bowen, are voting today on a proposal to
increase the student activities fee by \$45
to \$90 total. This still makes the LSUS
student activities fee cheap in comparison
with other schools but will at least allow
improvement.

President Pro Tempore, Ben Thomas,
pointed out that a step increase might be
more suitable during discussion of this
proposal at the SGA's first spring meeting.
He used the example of businesses that
suddenly find themselves with a mass of
capital they aren't sure how to spend.
This is a good point. However, if the fee
is not increased enough for organizations
to be able to appreciate a sufficient
increase in their budgets, we will have
nothing to show for the fee increase.

It is better to do it immediately and
allow organizations to actually do some-
thing with the money they receive. *The
Almagest*, for example, will print more
copies so that every student who pays for
the Almagest will actually have the
chance to read it.

It is up to you as the students to
provide input as to how this money
should be spent. Send your input to SGA,
SAB, SOC and *the Almagest*. We can al-
ways use new ideas, and if you think you
know how to spend the money better than
we, tell us.

Don't complain about spending
slightly more money; help decide how it
will be spent so that you will be satisfied
that you are finally getting your money's
worth.

-mm

Clarifications

This is the part of the paper where we give you the secret message.

In "Clarifications" I tell you the truth as best I can by attempting to mend errors I made in past issues. After all, honesty is the core of the writer-reader relationship, which I hold sacred.

I want you to be honest with me as well, by always communicating openly, ready to teach as well as learn. A free exchange between writer and reader benefits both by bringing together ideas that may not have met otherwise, stimulating learning.

And I am only here to learn.

What is worth learning but truth?

But truth must be tested for a skeptic like me. After all, I believe it plausible that the universe is a figment of my imagination, or me of it. Or of course we are all characters in a cosmic drama (but at the core one consciousness shifting from experience to experience: Universal Being).

Or nothing really exists. But who knows? And who cares?

Although I can't guarantee that anyone is reading this, if you are, then I am.

Because if I weren't, I couldn't write this.

So thanks for helping support my existence.

Your thoughts make me possible.

-matt morris, editor in chief

Un editorial en español

LSUS existe para que los estudiantes aprendan a triunfar en la vida. Pero, en la vida moderna los avances tecnológicos han hecho que el mundo sea un lugar más pequeño. La oportunidad existe para trabajar con personas de todo el mundo. Si queremos ser competitivos es necesario que tratemos de estudiar otras culturas.

El futuro de Shreveport es tá en hacerse una ciudad internacional. Esta permitirá que nosotros seamos más que una mera colonia de New Orleans, Baton Rouge o Las Vegas. Si la misión de LSUS es producir los líderes del futuro de Shreveport, debe producir los que dirigirán a Shreveport en el mundo.

¿Cómo se preparan los graduados de LSUS para trabajar con las personas internacionales? Desgraciadamente, no muy bien.

Este semestre, dos profesores de idiomas extrañas se jubilan. Los profesores Michael Williams y Joe Patrick han dedicado muchos años a enseñar en esta universidad. Han luchado con el temor que muchos norteamericanos tiene de los idiomas extranjeros, y han ayudado a muchos estudiantes a tener una apreciación más grande del mundo. Desgraciadamente, con su jubilación el futuro de los idiomas extranjeros en LSUS es incierto.

El año pasado, el programa de japonés fue clausurado. Ahora, es posible que lo mismo pase con el alemán. Esto es porque la administración de LSUS no ha mostrado ningún deseo de mantener un compromiso de educar de los estudiantes de LSUS en idiomas.

La administración, especialmente el rector Vincent Marsala y el vicerector Stuart Mills, esperan ofrecer mas programas para prepara los estudiantes de LSUS para las oportunidades que puedan estar disponibles en el futuro. Pero... ¿qué tal los programas que ya tenemos? ¿Vamos a demostrar nuestro compromiso al futuro apoyando los idiomas, o no?

Si Usted no comprende este editorial, tendrá una idea de cómo será cuando el resto del mundo está hablando y usted no puede escuchar.

-Mateo Morris

Editor's note: Special thanks to Dr. Lynn Walford for editing. Foreign language students are encouraged to submit materials exercising your skills. If you are interested in submitting material in Spanish, German or French, call the Almagest at 797-5328. We ask that you provide an English translation of any submitted articles. Monolingual students are encouraged to share their thoughts as well, in the form of letters to the editor, in English.

From the production editor

The Almagest has been through quite a few changes since I arrived here at LSUS in 1998. At first I didn't even read the newspaper, but then as I read it more it peaked my interest. My favorite aspect was Mark Rogers's classified ads and the crime blotters. These out of all the content seemed to speak to me in a way none of the rest of the paper did. One day though, I ventured into the inside of the publication and noticed a world I had not noticed before. It occurred to me for the first time that I was actually starting to get interested in what was going on around campus. Administrator's paychecks, raises in fees and eliminated programs became an interest in my life. The content of the paper grew to be daily conversation and my friends and I slowly became interested and involved.

The downside about being involved here at LSUS is that you soon realize you and a small handful of folks are the only ones contributing to the student life and activeness here at LSUS. Many took on double- and triple-duty working with the SGA, SAB and others all at the same time. I knew then that if more were involved things could get better.

Things did and have changed for the better. Slowly, many of my fellow students became involved as well and student life on this campus increased dramatically. The past year has been very interesting and more active than previous years. Much of the problem is money. There is only so much to go around and that fact seems to cut the number of events and promotions our organizations can hold in a year. Since I have been working for *the Almagest* I have seen our budget cut and ideas shot down for lack of funding. That is disturbing.

Although we barely have a budget, we do our best. Last semester we were a rookie staff. We spent most of our time trying to figure out what the hell was going on and now that we have some of it figured out we are planning to take a stab at the rest of it. But by the time we get a true procedure we'll be preparing for graduation and it will be someone else's turn to be utterly confused.

It is our present staff and workers who will take this thing over. Our staff this semester is sharp. We have reporters who beat deadlines, Dominic an extremely talented and dedicated photographer, a fresh new comic strip and our freshman artist Mike. These are the people who get

involved and help. But, THESE PEOPLE NEED HELP! Not because they have mental problems but because they are the only folks we have. We need artists and others to contribute to our goal of collectively and consistently publishing our school newspaper. It is not the equivalent to saving the whales but it looks good on a resume and the chicks and dudes dig it (something for everyone).

People need to get involved quickly because once were gone someone must take our place. If you are interested you have a likely chance of getting offered positions with this organization. All you really need to do is help out, ask about how things are done and just make yourself and your talents available. Get involved! I hope you all enjoy 2002 and I bid you adieu.

Christopher Alexander (Production Editor)

Amanda Geiger never saw the drunk driver.

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.

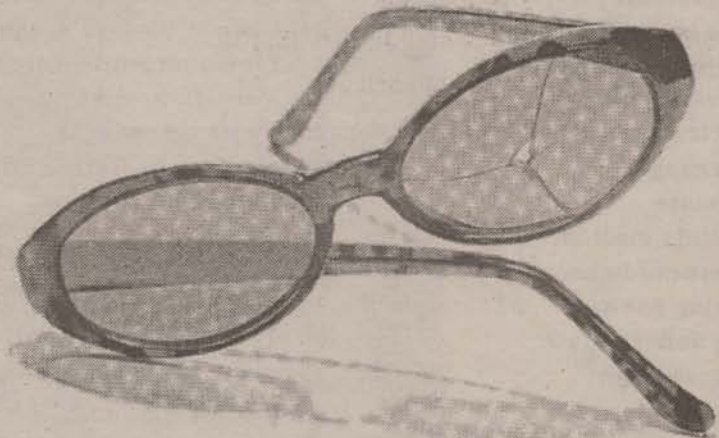


Photo by Michael Maczko

U.S. Department of Transportation

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agents of B.O.O.G.I.E.

Episode 1: Trial Run

By: Stephen Failey and Michael Scott



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The World's Worst Crossword Puzzle

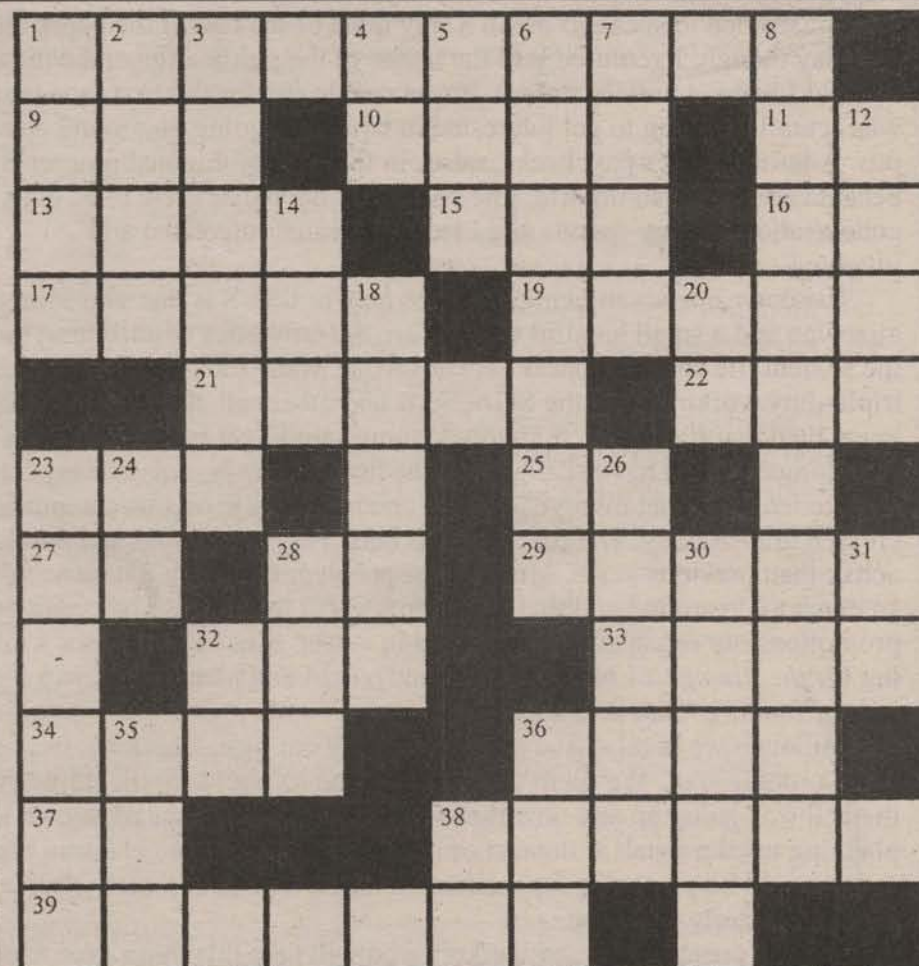
created by Chris Alexander

Across

- 1- Part of Central Nervous System
- 9- Curve
- 10- Can't be trusted
- 11- Demands primitive needs
- 13- Zombie mating call
- 15- Period of time
- 16- Sideways Z and a hole
- 17- Went way out of business
- 19- Incline
- 21- Bring together
- 22- Singer/bass player for Primus
- 23- Can cause discomfort
- 25- Major Blood group
- 27- Spielberg film
- 28- Exclamation
- 29- Exchange
- 32- Primate
- 33- Culture medium
- 34- Source of light
- 36- Eating habits
- 37- Big animal
- 38- Transgressor
- 39- Fathers day gift

Down

- 1- Alike
- 2- Abbreviated noun substitute
- 3- Tried to fly and died
- 4- Godfather actor's first name
- 5- Disinformation
- 6- Protects small children
- 7- First stage in child development
- 8- Company and a meal
- 12- Pointillism features
- 14- Prefix
- 18- Activity suited to one's abilities
- 20- Charles Barkley's home state
- 23- Liquid measurement
- 24- Kubrick Project
- 26- Center of thought
- 28- Naughty by Nature hit
- 30- Representative
- 31- TV show
- 32- Before noon
- 35- Something to grind
- 36- To exit (in a big way)
- 38- "Yes" in Uruguay



I would personally like to thank Mike and Steve for their comic strip. They are going to help keep this back page interesting this semester. My crossword puzzle might not be as good as all those big newspapers but I sure enjoyed creating it. I just hope you enjoy it and I would like to encourage any suggestions or criticisms. What do you like? What don't you like? Let us know or we will not know. We are also looking for artists so Mike Scott will not get mad and quit. Get in touch with us quick and let us know you're there. So, please help us! - Christopher Alexander